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Application No. 10/690,344
Amendment dated October 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 12, 2006

Docket No.: 025058.0101PTUS

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review of the application as set forth in the Office Action dated April 12, 2006. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims. This response to the Office Action, filed with a three month extension of time, addresses all issues in the Office Action.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 - 31 were pending at the time of the Office Action, and were rejected by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 16, 20, 24, 25 and 28 have been amended, and claims 32 - 47 have been added. Support for amendments can be found at in the specification and figures of the original application. No new matter has been added by the amendments. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found, for example, in Figure 1 and paragraphs 0039 - 0040. Support for the amendments to claim 24 can be found, for example, in Figure 5 and paragraphs 0053 - 0064. Claims 2, 10, 16, 20, 25 and 28 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Support for new claims 32 - 34 can be found, for example, in Figure 5 and paragraphs 0053 - 0064. Support for new claims 35 - 40 can be found, for example, in Figure 6 and paragraphs 0076 - 0077. Support for new claims 41 - 47 can be found, for example, in Figures 2 and 7 and paragraph 0078. No new matter has been added by the amendments.

Applicant's representatives thank Examiner Truong for the review of claims 1 - 47. Applicant's representatives also appreciate Examiner Truong's indication that claims 1 - 47 are allowable over the art of record as per her October 6 call with Applicants' representative.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 - 47 are pending, of which claims 1, 24, 32, 35 and 41 are independent.

Examiner Personal Interview

Applicant's representatives thank Examiner Truong for the courtesies extended during the October 3, 2006 personal interview and subsequent phone conferences. The subject matter

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of these communications is incorporated herein and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

Claims 24 - 28 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 24 - 28 are directed to statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101. The amendments to claim 24 more clearly illustrate that the invention is not merely an abstract idea.

The preamble to claim 24 now states that the communications manager is contained within a computer-readable storage medium. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Support for this amendment is found in, for example, Figures 1 and 2 and corresponding descriptions in the specification. Because the communications manager is contained within a computer-readable storage medium, the invention is processed with links to a practical result in the technology arts and with computer manipulation.

Therefore, independent claim 24 and dependent claims 25 - 28 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are directed to statutory subject matter.

Claims 1 - 14 and 16 - 28 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nicastro et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/00153670) in view of Galdes (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0038687).

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 14 and 16 - 28 over Nicastro in view of Galdes is respectfully traversed. As discussed during the personal interview, the pending claims are not rendered obvious by the prior art.

Applicant's representatives thank Examiner Truong for the review of claims 1 - 47. Applicant's representatives also appreciate Examiner Truong's indication that claims 1 - 47 are allowable over the art of record as per her October 6 call with Applicant's representative.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. Claims 1 - 14 and 16 - 28 are patentable over Nicastro in view of Galdes.

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Claim 15 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nicastro et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/00153670) in view of Galdes (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0038687) and further in view of Estrada (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0135565).

The Examiner's rejection of claim 15 over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Estrada is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 depends from independent claim 1. Claim 15 adds the further patentable limitation "wherein work product is published on a Website substantially concurrently with its generation to invite public comments to complete a feedback loop" to the patentable features of independent claim 1. At least for reasons discussed above, independent claim 1 is patentable over Nicastro in view of Galdes.

Therefore, dependent claim 15, which depends from independent claim 1, is allowable over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Estrada. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 29 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nicastro et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/00153670) in view of Galdes (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0038687) and further in view of Cochran (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0030697).

The Examiner's rejection of claim 29 over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Cochran is respectfully traversed.

Claim 29 depends from claim 28, which in turn depends from claim 26, which in turn depends from independent claim 24. Claim 29 adds the further patentable limitations to the patentable features of independent claim 24. At least for reasons discussed above, independent claim 24 is patentable over Nicastro in view of Galdes.

Therefore, dependent claim 29, which depends from independent claim 24, is allowable over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Cochran. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

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Claim 30 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nicastro et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/00153670) in view of Galdes (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0038687) and further in view of Cochran (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0030697) and further in view of Sellers (U.S. 5,311,438).

The Examiner's rejection of claim 30 over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Cochran and further in view of Sellers is respectfully traversed.

Claim 30 depends from claim 29, which in turn depends from claim 28, which in turn depends from claim 26, which in turn depends from independent claim 24. Claim 30 adds the further patentable limitation "wherein a proposed rule is modified in response to the comment report" to the patentable features of independent claim 24. At least for reasons discussed above, independent claim 24 is patentable over Nicastro in view of Galdes.

Therefore, dependent claim 30, which depends from independent claim 24, is allowable over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Cochran and further in view of Sellers. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claim 31 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nicastro et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/00153670) in view of Galdes (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0038687) and further in view of Sellers (U.S. 5,311,438).

The Examiner's rejection of claim 31 over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Sellers is respectfully traversed.

Claim 31 depends from independent claim 24. Claim 31 adds the further patentable limitations to the patentable features of independent claim 24. At least for reasons discussed above, independent claim 24 is patentable over Nicastro in view of Galdes.

Therefore, dependent claim 31, which depends from independent claim 24, is allowable over Nicastro in view of Galdes and further in view of Sellers. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

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A three month extension of time is enclosed herewith, along with fees, to ensure this response is timely. Additional claim and independent claim fees have also been provided. Applicant believes no further fees are due with this response. However, if further fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2228, under Order No. 025058.0101PTUS from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 11, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Michele V. Frank
Registration No.: 37,028
PATTON BOGGS LLP
8484 Westpark Drive, 9th Floor
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 744-8000
(703) 744-8001 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants